

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 TRSE-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI

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NEA/PAB - MR. LANDE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SALE OF A-4S TO INDIA

1. IN ANSWERING ANY PRESS QUERIES, EMBASSIES MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR DECEMBER 9 PRESS BRIEFING WITH REGARD TO WASHINGTON POST STORY ON A-4 SALES TO INDIA. GUIDANCE MAY ALSO BE USED IN RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE INQUIRIES FROM POST GOVERNMENTS. GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO INDIAN AND PAKISTAN EMBASSIES.

Q. WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE SUPPOSED A-4 SALES PITCH TO INDIA?

A. FIRST, LET ME STATE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION THE SALE OF A-4S TO INDIA. SOMETIME AGO MCDONNELL DOUGLAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PROVIDING UNCLASSIFIED DATA ON THE A-4 TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE A PRESENTATION. WE APPROVED THE REQUEST ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IN NO WAY IMPLIED A USG DE-

CISION TO APPROVE ANY SALES OF THE AIRCRAFT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USG HAS NOT RECEIVED A GOI REQUEST ABOUT THE A-4 AND THEREFORE THERE IS NO REVIEW UNDER WAY WITH REGARD TO A POSSIBLE SALE.

Q. IS THERE AN IMPLIED COMMITMENT?

A. NO.

Q. DOES THE U.S. SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO INDIA?

A. IN FEBRUARY 1975 WE LIFTED THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND ADOPTED A CASH SALES POLICY. REQUESTS FOR SALES ARE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRITERIA ANNOUNCED AT THAT TIME. SALES TO INDIA, PRIMARILY SPARE PARTS FOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS, HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO A FEW MILLION DOLLARS.

Q. IS THIS RELATED TO THE RUSSIAN HEAVY WATER SALE?

A. NO, IT GOES BACK A NUMBER OF MONTHS AS I INDICATED BEFORE.

2. ABOVE GUIDANCE WAS USED TO ANSWER PRESS QUERIES IN DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 9 AND FIRST ANSWER WAS POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD IN PRESS ROOM FOR NEWS MEN. ROBINSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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